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EMANCIPATION.

ITS COURSE AND PROGRESS

FROM 1802 TO 1875,

WITH A CURSORY REVIEW OF

President Lincoln's Proclamation,

AND THE

XIII AMENDMENT,

BY

JOSEPH T. WILSON,

NORFOLK, Va.
Gift of E. Anthony
& Sons. Dec. 1884.

HAMPTON, VA.:
Normal School Steam Press Print.
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EMANCIPATION:

Of the causes and revolutions which men, from the earliest period of recorded time engaged in, none seems so memorable as the abolition of slavery, no event, save that of the coming—the birth of the Savior—is so rejoiced in as that of the abolition of slavery, by the civilized nations, and rightly so; of the crimes mentioned in the decalogue, human slavery takes rank of them all.

History fails to give the date or period of the beginning of slavery; the world consequently is ignorant of when it began; the sacred history records the sale of 1728 Joseph. Some writers claim this to be the beginning b. c. but whether it was or not it matters but little, since, now it seems confined to the dark continent of Africa.

Civilization and freedom evidently marches side and side, victory for one means victory for the other, and the nations barbaric, in turn, have had to deal with it, happily now the nations that have felt the oppressors' power rejoice in freedom—though perhaps it cost more of blood and treasure than any other cause, man ever engaged in. The price of freedom in our own country expensive as it was in lives and money, is not to be compared, does not approximate, will not add a cipher to its cost to the Eastern nations.

Though no knowledge of its beginning, the chroniclers have kept record of its abolition, and thus runs the record of the more important epochs.

1491 B. C. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and commanded him to go to Egypt, and there he performed many miracles, and inflicted ten successive plagues on Pharaoh, consequently the iron-hearted monarch allowed the Israelites to depart for a land of freedom: they having completed their four hundred and thirtieth year of sojourning in Egypt. Moses their leader, led them to the shore of the Red Sea, and God opened a passage through the Sea, and the Israelites passed through and into the desert Etham, by which means they became free.

1500 Isabella, Queen of Spain, decreed all the North American Indians in her European possessions free. Hundreds of Indians had been transported thither by the reputed discoverers of the Western Continent—Columbus, and other voyagers immediately following him, and sold into slavery.

1102 Abolition decree of the great council of England.

1171 Memorable Irish decree, giving freedom to all English slaves in Ireland.

1776 The Prussian edict.

1792 Denmark.

1793 Hayti.

The liberation of slaves in this state was by commissioners appointed by the French government at Paris as *Charge de affairs* of the Island of St. Domingo. Their proclamation was ratified by the assembly and made valid in 1794, though the English were then in possession of the coast.

In 1802 Napolean Bonaparte, as first Consul of France and sanctioned by the legislature thereof, land-

ed an army at Samaria for the purpose of re-enslaving the Negro inhabitants of this state, but the heroism of the Freedmen defeated the army, and to this day they remain free.

1794 The French manumission decree abolishing Negro slavery in St Domingo, Hayti, Cayenne, Gaudaloupe, Martinique.

1811 Java.

1815 Ceylon.

1816 Buenos Ayres, St Helena.

1820 Chili, Columbia.

1823 Cape Colony.

1825 Malacca.

1826 Burmah, Bolivia.

1828 Peru, Guatemala, Montivideo.

1829 Mexico.

1834 Jamaica, Barbadoes, the Burmudas, Bahama, Anquilla, Mauritius, St Christopher, Nevis, Virgin Island, Antigua, Montserret, Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenado, Berbice, Tobago, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Honduras, Demerara, Essequibo and the Cape of Good Hope, and three Colonies in the East Indies.

1842 Uruguay.

1863 Emancipation of the serfs in all the Russias.

“I have had occasion, formally, to remind the Senate how completely the Emperor has done his work. Not content with issuing the decree of Emancipation, he has proceeded, by an elaborate system of regulations, to provide in the first place, for what have been called the Civil Rights of all the recent serfs; then, again, to provide for their rights in property, securing to every

one of them a homestead; and then, again, by providing for them rights of public education. Added to all these he has secured to them also political rights, giving to every one the right to vote for all local officers; corresponding to our officers of the town and of the county. It is this very thoroughness with which he has carried out his decree of Emancipation."

Sumner, U. S. Senate.

This speech fully explains the decree, in its munificence.

1869 Cuba—Insurrectionists proclaim freedom to the slaves.

1871 Brazil—Emancipation took somewhat the form and procedure of that in our own country, beginning with the abolition of the African Slave trade in 1831, by defect in the law; the final abolition of the traffic however, did not take place until 1850; this was followed by a gradual emancipation act in 1871, which manumitted all the Government slaves and 30,000 others.

1873 The Cortes of the young Republic of Spain passed a bill setting free from that day (March 24th) all slaves in Porto Rico; the bill provided that each owner should receive per head for his slaves the sum of \$200 in American money. To pay this indemnity, seven millions of dollars was raised upon the resources of Porto Rico. The Freedmen were compelled by the act to make contract either with the planters or the Government to work for wages for three years; it also provided in the meantime that exact and wise laws for education should be put into operation.

1875 Portugal. The Cortes granted unconditional free-

dom to all her slaves; the act provides that one year after its promulgation, the system of apprenticeship under the decree of the 28th of February, 1869, shall cease, and all persons apprenticed by its provisions are declared free. The act also provides for the manner in which freedmen who have no trade or business, or who cannot read or write, may be subjected to tutelage by the civil authorities, but that this right—right of tutelage—shall cease on the 28th of April, 1878. The labor of those under tutelage is declared free, and they are to be at liberty to make their own contracts, subject to the revision of the proper authority, such contracts to be in no case binding for more than two years. The law also makes provision for rendering effective the liberty it concedes. Thus it will be seen that the act in question puts an end to slavery forever in Portugal and her dependencies, and not only proclaims the freedom of apprentices and the abolition in the Portuguese dominions of man's apprenticeship to man, but declares that the labor of the apprentices now under tutelage is free, and that they are at liberty to make their own contracts, subject only to the revision of the proper authority. These munificent provisions are exceeded by no nation, save, perhaps, Russia, where humanity dictated the terms, and made ample provisions for the emancipated serfs.

EMANCIPATION.

This poem was published in the *True Communicator* in 1866, over the Sobriquet "Annie."

Whence comes this glory that our land has brightened
Whence comes this flood of radiance so bright?
The golden cords of sisterhood are tightened,
While heart and voice in praises deep unite.

'Tis heaven's benediction gently falling,
While Justice's voice her erring sons is calling.

They hear, and quickly to the call responding,
Loosen at once each worn and galling chain,
And, kneeling where the boon to him was given,
The freeman feels no suffering was in vain,
For God, the sovereign Lord of earth and heaven,
Has bared his arm and every bond is riven.

From our dear land a cloud of sin is lifted,
O'er her is arched a clearer, brighter sky,
Her rills and founts and brooks with joy are gushing,
While tree tops whisper back a soft reply.
Her people now the hand of God discerning,
From darkness into light their steps are turning.

No more shall mother's hearts be torn with anguish,
No more shall father's souls for vengeance burn,
Sisters no more for brother's care shall languish,
Nor brothers for a sister's love shall yearn.
Their night is past, the morn to-day is breaking,
Each joyful heart to praises sweet is waking.

The star of hope in every bosom shining,
Dispels the gloom that long has darkened there.
They wake, and in the might of freedom rising,
Pour forth the incense of a grateful prayer.
Within them now a spirit breathes immortal,
They soar on wings of faith to heaven's high portal.

The freeman to his lowly cabin turning,
When with the sun his daily labors o'er,
Wipes from his beaming eye the moisture gathering,
To see the group complete about his door.
Love, truth and mercy seem in triumph bending,
While nature's voice, with his mute praise is blending.

Our glorious banner with its hues of heaven,
Far, far and wide all lingering doubt dispels.
No slave beneath its folds now lowly couches,
But safe beneath its stars securely dwells.
O, God, whose hand our fragile bark did'st save,
Leave us not now, we've dangers yet to brave.

Still by thy wisdom let our hearts be moulded,
Still for direction let us look to thee,
In mercy, justice, faith at last perfect us,
That we, thy will concerning us may see.
O, let thy love on all this land descending,
Preserve the Union safe from strife defending.

UNITED STATES.

The history of Emancipation in our own country is entitled to far greater consideration than the opportunity will permit me to give it here, even were I disposed to treat the subject at length. The result of the war of the Revolution of 1776, gave freedom only to the whites, though a great many slaves succeeded in obtaining their freedom by following the English flag, and a few for very distinguished service in the Colonial army were manumitted, some by the States, some by their masters. Though Negro slavery at the close of the war began to relax its hold upon the people in one section of the country, it revived in the other section; yet there was no considerable manumission of slaves for some years after the ending of the struggle.

1777. Vermont, upon whose soil a slave never trod, declared against slavery in her declaration against Briton's rule, and prohibited it in her Constitution; her action was followed by the legislatures of the other Northern States where large numbers of slaves were held.

1780. Massachusetts, Pennsylvania,

1784. Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire.

1799. New York.

1804. New Jersey.

It is in justice to the effort made in Virginia in 1830—31, to abolish slavery by her legislature, that I make mention of it here. Following the Nat Turner insurrection in one of her counties,—Southampton, and in answer to a petition signed by several hundr

females, the question was taken up by the legislature; a bill for gradual emancipation was discussed at great length and failed to pass by only two votes; this was superinduced by the insurrection, and with its subsidence went the emancipation question. It was not the first attempt to get rid of slavery by Virginia; her Colonial Assembly in 1772, presented a petition to the Crown, stating, says Judge Tucker, in his "Notes to the American edition of Blackstone's Commentaries," "that the importation of slaves into the Colony from the Coast of Africa, has long been considered as a trade of great inhumanity, and under its *present encouragement* they have too much reason to fear would *endanger the very existence* of his Majesty's American dominion," and beseeching the Crown to remove all those restraints on the Governors of that Colony, which inhibited their assenting to such laws as might check so very pernicious a commerce as the African slave trade. But in this she followed the example set by the Northern Colonies. Massachusetts, as early as 1703, and again in 1767, sought to interdict slavery; so did New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; but the English Government lent a deaf ear to their entreaties, but no sooner was the independence of the Colonies declared in 1776, than the American Congress resolved against the importation of slaves from Africa.

1808 By Act of Congress the slave trade was abolished, and shortly thereafter declared to be piracy, and punishable with death.

1862. By Act of Congress, slavery abolished in the District of Columbia.

1862 President Lincoln, as Commander in Chief of the United States forces, engaged in suppresing rebellion, issued a preliminary proclamation, warning the rebels that unless they laid down their arms and returned to their allegiance due the Government of the United States before the 1st day of January, 1863, he would on that day declare all their slaves free, which 1863 he accordingly did, excepting, however, the slaves in those portions of States then occupied by the Union forces, and also those sections where the people were loyal to the union of the states the slaves remained as though the proclamation had not been issued. Truly this proclamation did not, like the surrender of Yorktown, free a single slave, nor would it have had even the moral force, given it, it received, but, for the fact, that the Southern States declared themselves independent, and engaged in open war against the Federal Government for the maintenance of their declared independence, only for this assumption, neither the President nor Congress, nor the loyal people, could have by proclamation, amendment to the Constitution, or by any other means, emancipated the slaves, yet how surprising it is that the emancipation of the American Negro, when referred to to its source, its credit is given to the lamented Lincoln,—it was just as easy for the President to declare a victory for the Union army as to declare the slaves in the enemies country free. But it is not my purpose to discuss this proclamation, which admits of more than ordinary argument; nor would I for a moment either directly or indirectly, neither by word or insinuation attempt to detract from the fame

of the humane and illustrious statesman, the benefactor of my race, Abraham Lincoln;—nevertheless, we should know the truth concerning so important an event as the emancipation of four million slaves, and know, too, that the proclamation in question did not emancipate them. Had the South maintained her assumed independence in defiance of the Federal Government, what would the edict have amounted to? Again, had the enemy laid down their arms six months after the edict was issued, would they have lost their slaves? It must be remembered that Congress recognized slavery a year after the proclamation was issued, and treated with the owners as late as 1864, by paying one hundred dollars to the loyal owner for every slave who enlisted in the union army. When then, and how came the slaves free? Before answering these questions, let us read what Professor Haygood in his excellent work, "Our Brother in Black" says, under the caption of "Providence in Emancipation," "There can be," he says, "no question, I think, but that emancipation was set down in the order of Divine Providence. Had the white people realized both in thought and act, their relation to the slaves, emancipation might have come sooner, it might have come later, but it would have come peaceably, and when both masters and slaves were better prepared for the change. It is to me a very painful thought that, while there were very many noble exceptions, the majority of masters never understood the solemnity of their trust in the temporary guardianship of these Negroes in course of training. Many of them, I fear the largest number, recognized

chiefly a property interest in the Negroes. Men with this feeling uppermost, could not do their duty to the slaves. But God's plans must not be marred by human ignorance or cupidity; so that it came to pass that God used a great war to set free the Negroes."

How the Negro regarded the proclamation is not difficult to tell, and perhaps the observation of one of Mr. Lincoln's staunchest supporters and advisers, may serve to illustrate more clearly than I can, how the Negro and his abolition friends were affected by it. "The slaves," he says " of the South seem to have made no mistake as to their status. They knew they were not free while their masters held them and the territory. They looked to the gun boats and the stars and stripes, and regarded the proclamation only as a promise which would fail or be made good according to the issue of the war. As to the people of the North, they were in no humor to "reason too precisely upon the event." They were impatient under the existing policy and looked for a change; they saw that change in the proclamation, and cared little in what form it came, or what else it undertook to do. They had been disgusted by the advice that had been offered them on constitutional questions by over-technical or semi-loyal men. Jurists had advised that the Prize Courts were unconstitutional, that no property could be taken, at sea or on land, except in the way of penalty for treason, after a jury trial. We could not blockade our own ports; that though an army and militia were constitutional, volunteers and conscriptions were not; and at the bottom of all, that the Republic could not coerce a State. It is

little wonder, therefore, that they were impatient of any criticism upon the proclamation. On the other hand unquestionable patriots, educated in a narrow school of strict construction - - - were telling the people that the only way to save the Union was to run the constitution ashore.

Fortunately, the proclamation was never brought to a test. There can be little doubt that Foreign States and our own Judiciary would have treated it as ineffectual."

Edward Everett, at the great Emancipation meeting in Fanueil Hall, Boston, in a lengthy and forcible speech said: "It is very doubtful whether any act of the government of the United States was necessary to liberate the slaves in a State which is in Rebellion. There is much reason for the opinion that, by the simple act of levying war against the United States, the relation of slavery was terminated; certainly so far as concerns the duty of the United States to recognize it, or to refrain from interfering with it. Not being founded on the law of nature, and resting solely on positive local law, and that not of the United States—as soon as it becomes either the motive or pretext of an unjust war against the Union,—an efficient instrument in the hands of the rebels for carrying on the war,—a source of military strength to the Rebellion and of danger to the Government at home and abroad; with the additional certainty that in any event but its abandonment, it will continue in all future times to work these mischiefs. Who can suppose it is the duty of the United States to continue to recognize it? To maintain this would be a

contradiction in terms. It would be to recognize a right in a rebel master to employ his slaves in acts of rebellion and treason; and the duty of the slave to aid and abet his master in the commission of the greatest crime known to the law. No such absurdity can be admitted; and any citizen of the United States, from the President down, who should by any overt act, recognize the duty of a slave to obey a rebel master, in a hostile operation; would himself be giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

Now the answer to the questions. They can best be answered by one who took a very conspicuous part in bringing about the sequel, in fact, was a pioneer in the cause of human rights and emancipation. Henry Wilson, in his Anti-Slavery measures in Congress says:

"The speaker of the House of Representatives on the 14th of December, 1863, after announcing the standing committees, stated that the first business in order was the call of the States for bills and joint resolutions. Mr. Ashley, chairman of the committee on Territories, introduced a bill to provide for submitting to the States a proposition to amend the Constitution, prohibiting slavery." Mr. Wilson of Iowa, submitted a similar proposition. These were referred to the Judiciary committee.

In the senate on the 11th of January, 1864, Mr. Henderson of Missouri, introduced a joint resolution, proposing an amendment to the constitution, abolishing slavery. Mr. Sumner, on the 8th of February, introduced a joint resolution in the same body, having for its object the abolition of slavery also; these were

referred to the Judiciary committee of the Senate, on the 10th, two days after.

Mr. Turnbull, of Ill., Chairman of the Judiciary committee, reported adversely on Mr. Sumner's resolution. He reported Mr. Henderson's resolution with an amendment, which read:

"That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States, as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes as a part of the said Constitution;—namely:

SECTION 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

On the 8th of April the proposition was adopted by the senate by 38 yeas to 6 nays.

On the 31st of May the proposition was taken up by the House of Representatives and debated until the 15th of June, when, by a vote of 93 yeas to 65 nays, 23 not voting, the measure was lost.

President Lincoln in his message to Congress, December, 1864, urges the adoption of the amendment, rejected at the previous session; on motion of Mr. Ashley of Ohio, the House on the 6th of January, 1865 took up the amendment and after a stubborn opposition the measure was passed on Tuesday, the 31st of January 1865.*

* The Secretary of State dates the passage of the amendment, February 1st; this date is evidently incorrect.

Notwithstanding slavery had been abolished in the territories, and in the District of Columbia, Congress had by act given freedom to the Negro soldiers, their wives and children; the states of Maryland, West Virginia and Missouri, had emancipated their slaves, although the President's Emancipation Proclamation; the reorganized state governments of Tennessee, Virginia and Louisiana had all aimed a blow at slavery, yet it existed, hence the thirty eighth Congress, acting upon the advice of President Lincoln, passed, and the legislature of the states ratified the thirteenth amendment, thereby making it a part of the organic law of our country.

Gradually human slavery, as an institution, disappears from all governments called civilized.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

OF SEPT. 1862, AND JANUARY FIRST, 1863.

“I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy thereof, do hereby proclaim and declare that hereafter as heretofore the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the constitutional relation between the United States and the people thereof in those States in which that relation is, or may be, suspended or disturbed; that it is my purpose upon the next meeting of Congress to again recommend the adoption of a practical measure tendering pecuniary aid to the free acceptance or rejection of all the slave States, so-called, the people whereof may not then be in rebellion against the United States, and which States may then have voluntarily adopted, or thereafter may voluntarily adopt, the immediate or gradual abolition of slavery within their respective limits, and that the effort to colonize persons of African descent, with their consent, upon the continent or elsewhere, with the previously obtained consent of the Govern-

ment existing there, will be continued; that on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or any designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward and forever, free, and the executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom: that the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto, at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof have not been in rebellion against the United States.

“That attention is hereby called to an act of Congress entitled “An act to make an additional article of war,” approved March 13, 1862, and which act is in the words and figures following:

“*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That hereafter the following shall be promulgated as an additional article of war for the government of the army of the United States, and shall be observed and obeyed as such.

“*Article*—, All officers or persons of the military or naval service of the United States are prohibited from employing any of the forces under their respective commands for the purpose of returning fugitives from service or labor, who may have escaped from any persons to whom such service or labor is claimed to be due, and any officer who shall be found guilty by a court-martial of violating this article, shall be dismissed from the service.

“*Sec. 2.* And be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect from and after its passage,”

“Also to the ninth and tenth sections of an act entitled *An act to suppress insurrection, to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and confiscate property of rebels, and for other purposes,* approved July 17, 1862, and which sections are in the words and figures following:

“ ‘ Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That all slaves of persons who shall hereafter be engaged in rebellion against the Government of the United States, or who shall in any way give aid or comfort thereto, escaping from such persons and taking refuge within the lines of the army; and all slaves captured from such persons or deserted by them, and coming under the control of the Government of the United States, and all owners of such persons found on (or being within, any place occupied by rebel forces and afterwards occupied by the forces of the United States, shall be deemed captives of war, and shall be forever free of their servitude and not again held as slaves.

“ ‘ Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That no slave escaping into any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, from any of the States, shall be delivered up, or in any way impeded or hindered of his liberty, except for crime, or some offence against the laws, unless the person claiming said fugitive shall first make oath that the person to whom the labor or service of such fugitive is alleged to be due, is his lawful owner, and has not been in arms against the United States in the present rebellion, nor in any way given aid and comfort thereto; and no person engaged in the military or naval service of the United States shall, under any pretense whatever, assume to decide on the validity of the claim of any person to the service or labor of any other person, or surrender up any such person to the claimant, on pain of being dismissed from the service,”

“And I do hereby enjoin upon, and order all persons engaged in the military and naval service of the United States to observe, obey and enforce within their respective spheres of service the act and sections above recited.

“ ‘ And the executive will in due time recommend that all citizens of the United States who shall have remained loyal thereto throughout the rebellion, shall (upon the restoration of the constitutional relation between the United States and people, if the relation shall have been suspended or disturbed) be compensated for all losses by acts of the United States, including the loss of slaves.

“In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

“Done at the city of Washington, this twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred

and sixty two, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

“By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
“Wm. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*”

PROCLAMATION OF JANUARY FIRST, 1863.

“Whereas; on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States containing, among other things, to wit:

“That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforth and forever free, and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

“That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States if any, in which the people therein respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto, at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States.

“Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power is me vested as Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and Government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the day of the first above-mentioned order, and designate, as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are this day in

rebellion against the United States, the following to wit; Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, except the parishes of St. Bernard, Palquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans. Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, and which excepted parts are, for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

“And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

“And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free, to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense, and I recommend to them, that in all cases, when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

“And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

“And upon this, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, and upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgement of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

“In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

“Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

“By the President: ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*”

RATIFICATION OF THE XIII AMENDMENT.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

Secretary of State of The United States,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETING:

Know ye, that whereas the Congress of the United States on the 1st of February last, passed a resolution which is in the words following, namely:

"A Resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both houses concurring,) That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

ARTICLE XIII.

"SECTION 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

"SECTION 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

And whereas, it appears from official documents on file in this Department that the amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed, as aforesaid, has been ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Illinois, Rhode Island, Michigan, Maryland, New York, West Virginia, Maine, Kansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Missouri, Nevada, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, Tennessee, Arkansas, Connecticut, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia; in all twenty-seven States:

And whereas the whole number of States in the United States is thirty-six; and whereas the before specially-named States, whose legislatures have ratified

the said proposed amendment, constitutes three-fourths of the whole number of States in the United States:

Now, therefore, be it known that I, WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State of the United States, by virtue and in pursuance of the second section of the act of Congress, approved the twentieth of April, eighteen hundred and eighteen, entitled "An act to provide for the publication of the laws of the United States and for other purposes," do hereby certify that the amendment aforesaid has become valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this eighteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one [L. S.] thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninetieth.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

RATIFICATION OF THE XIII AMENDMENT BY THE STATES.

Alabama	December 2nd 1865	Nevada	February 16, 1865
Arkansas	April 20 1865	New Hampshire	July 1, 1865
*California	December 20, 1865	*New Jersey	January 23, 1866
Connecticut	May 5, 1865	New York	February 3, 1865
*Florida	December 28, 1865	North Carolina	December 4, 1865
Georgia	December 9, 1865	Ohio	February 10, 1865
Illinois	February 1, 1865	*Oregon	December 11, 1865
Indiana	February 16, 1865	Pennsylvania	February 8, 1865
*Iowa	January 24, 1866	Rhode Island	February 2, 1865
Kansas	February 7, 1865	South Carolina	November 13, 1865
Louisiana	February 17, 1865	Tennessee	April 7, 1865
Maine	February 7, 1865	Vermont	March 9, 1865
Maryland	February 3, 1865	Virginia	February 9, 1865
Massachusetts	February 8, 1865	West Virginia	February 3, 1865
Michigan	February 2, 1865	Wisconsin	March 1, 1865
Minnesota	February 23, 1865	Texas	February 18, 1870
Missouri	February 10, 1865		

Secretary of State, Seward, issued his proclamation on the 18th of December, 1865, at which time, only twenty seven states had certified their ratification. Oregon ratified on the 11th of December, but probably too late for the official notification to reach Washington. The other states are marked (*) showing clearly that they were too late to be counted, though enough had already ratified to justify the Secretary of State in issuing the proclamation as required by law.

EMANCIPATED.

The following Table shows the number of slaves freed.

Alabama	435,080	Nebraska	15
Arkansas	111,115	*New Jersey	18
Delaware	1,798	North Carolina	331,059
Florida	61,745	South Carolina	402,406
Georgia	462,198	Tennessee	275,719
Kansas	2	Texas	182,566
Kentucky	225,483	Virginia	490,865
Louisiana	331,726	District of Columbia	3,185
Maryland	87,189	Territory of Utah	29
Mississippi	436,631		
Missouri	114,931	Total	3,953,760

*New Jersey—These were eighteen apprentices for life, freed by the XIII amendment.

St. Domingo	800,000	Antigua	30,000
Gaudaloupe	85,000	Russia	20,000,000
Columbia	900,000	Israelites, including women and childr'n	2,500,000
Cape Colony	30,000	Indians in Spain...	700
Jamaica	331,000		

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